

# The Harlington & Sundon Academy Trust



May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that from September 2014 the new nationwide scheme 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' has been available. This will mean that all children attending school in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, are entitled to free school meals, regardless of income or eligibility for benefits. By receiving free school meals you can save up to £400 a year and ensure your child is eating a healthy, balanced meal every day.

How Universal Infant Free School Meals will affect Pupil Premium:

In the 2019- 2020 financial year, schools received £1,320 for every primary-aged pupil registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years.

I wish to remind you that if you are what the government terms 'on a low income' your child qualifies for free school meals. Pupils do not have to take our meals if they do not want to but, if they are on our Free School Meals register, then they qualify for all sorts of other financial benefits throughout the year. When a pupil is on our Free School Meals register, the school receives extra money for that pupil which has to be spent only on the education of free school meals pupils. This extra money is called the Pupil Premium and its purpose is to ensure that children from low income families are not at a financial disadvantage during their education as a result of home circumstances.

Is my child eligible for Pupil Premium?

In order for the school to receive the Pupil Premium funding a Parent/Carer must be claiming one of the following benefits:

- ❖ Universal Credit (provided they have an annual net earned income of no more than £7400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of their most recent assessment periods)
- ❖ Income Support
- ❖ Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- ❖ Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- ❖ Working Tax Credit run-on paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- ❖ The guarantee element of Pension Credit.
- ❖ Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- ❖ Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16190)

In order to register your Child to receive Pupil Premium you will need to go to the following website and follow the instructions: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or call **0300 300 8306**.

## Other Information

Universal Infant Free School Meals does not apply to children attending Children's Centres or Nursery Schools. They will continue to receive free school meals only if they meet the existing eligibility criteria and are in receipt of full-time education or education both before and after the lunch period.

Yours sincerely

C White  
Head Teacher